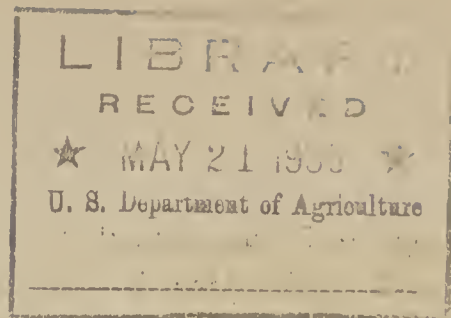


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Regional Information Series

N.C.R. Leaflet 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Washington, D. C.

THE 1936 SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION - - - - -

.....The States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,
Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa,
Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

"I believe that farmers will find the new program is in the national interest, and in their own individual interest, too. Every farmer takes pride in the productivity of his soil. Every farmer wants to hand on his farm to his children in better shape than he found it. The conservation payments offered by the Government in accordance with the act will help him to do this."

---President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
March 19, 1936.

(Issued March, 1936)

1936 SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

(North Central Region)

-- In Brief --

Goal - In an effort to halt wasteful exploitation of soil resources and to conserve soil fertility, a goal is set for 1936 which involves an increase of crop land devoted to soil-building and soil-conserving crops from 1930 level of 100,000,000 acres to 130,000,000 acres.

Funds available - Approximately \$470,000,000 is available in 1936 for payments and for administration of program, locally and nationally.

Administration - Insofar as administratively practicable, program to be conducted by farmers themselves through state, county and community committees; five regional divisions of Agricultural Adjustment Administration to have charge of administration in five major regions of the United States.

Bases - A soil-depleting crop acreage base for each farm in 1936 to be established from 1935 crop acreage history, with adjustments where necessary; special base acreages to be established for sugar beets, flax, cotton, tobacco and peanuts.

Forms - Participating farmers will fill out work sheet on 1935 crop history, etc., application for a grant, and statement of performance. There will be no contracts.

Payments - Two types of payments: (1) a soil-conserving payment averaging approximately \$10 an acre for entire country for shifting crop land from soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving crops, or to approved soil-building practices, and (2) a soil-building payment for such cropping or other practices as recommended by the State committee and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Rates of payments to vary according to relative productivity of crop land.

Maximum soil-conserving payment - In general payment will be made on the number of acres shifted from soil-depleting crops up to 15 percent of soil-depleting base. (Cotton maximum, 35 percent; tobacco, 30 percent; peanuts, 20 percent.)

Minimum performance - No payment made unless total acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops in 1936 equals either (a) 20 percent of farm's soil-depleting base or (b) maximum acreage on which a soil-conserving payment can be made.

Division of payments - In general to be divided between tenant and landlord as they divide principal soil-depleting crop or proceeds from this crop under terms of lease.

Time and number of payments - Payments to be made direct to farmer in one instalment as soon as possible after actual evidence of performance has been certified by county committee.

Crop classification - Crops divided into three classes for purposes of administering program: soil-depleting, soil-conserving, and soil-building. A few crops will be classed as "neutral".

Consumer protection - Act specifies due regard be given to maintenance of continuous and stable supply of agricultural commodities adequate to meet consumers' demands at prices fair to both consumers and producers, and to the production of supplies of foods and fibers adequate to maintain normal domestic human consumption.

1936 SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM
IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION - - - - -

(The States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin,
Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota)

The major purpose of the new farm program is to encourage wiser use of our national soil resources.

Every farmer is being given an opportunity to cooperate with his neighbors in a nationwide effort to conserve and improve soil fertility and to prevent erosion. Such action by the majority of American farmers will greatly reduce the present exploitation of soil resources as well as the wasteful and unscientific use of land.

Under the 1936 Soil Conservation program, direct Federal grants will be made to farmers who follow certain specified soil-conserving and soil-building farming practices.

SOIL LOSSES ARE SERIOUS

Few persons are aware of the serious decline in soil fertility and the loss of soil itself resulting from over-cropping, soil-washing and other causes.

The soil-depleting problem is general throughout the nation. The damage is worse on some farms than on others, depending upon the kind of soil, the steepness of slope and vegetative cover. But every region suffers to some extent. Many of our most fertile soil types are the most rapidly run down or depleted if not properly managed.

In some sections, the major problem is heavy over-cropping. This is the case, in particular, over much of the level area of the north Central states. The soils in this area have become harder to work, and their available plant food content has tended to decline. The acreage devoted to soil-conserving and soil-building crops, such as red clover, has been insufficient to maintain a desirable level of organic matter in the soil. Crop yield figures at the Ohio experiment station indicate that a considerable increase in soil-building practices now is necessary to offset the gradual soil depletion on the average farm over the past 60 years.

In more rolling country, the major problem usually is soil-washing. On some of the good Corn Belt soils, for example, plant food materials sufficient for ten crops of corn have been lost while only one crop was being produced. The Soil Conservation Service estimates that it takes only about three years of tilling moderately steep slopes in northern Missouri and southern Iowa to lose an inch of topsoil which has taken the slow process of nature at least 400 years to produce. On steeper slopes, an inch of topsoil may be lost in only one year, or even during a

single rain of the "gully-washer" type. When such conditions prevail, our cash commodities are being produced at a terrific cost in terms of soil fertility.

SOIL AND SOIL FERTILITY LOSSES MAY BE REDUCED

It will never be possible to prevent all soil depletion because we must farm part of our land intensively in order to provide adequate supplies of food and fiber crops for domestic consumption. But the amount of the depletion can be greatly reduced. As these losses are largely the result of over-cropping and erosion, it is obvious that one of the solutions is to increase our acreage of crops that will provide a protective cover for the valuable topsoil layer and furnish an abundance of organic matter that may be plowed under.

The decayed humus matter which crops produce when plowed under makes more favorable conditions for beneficial micro-organisms in the soil. If these crops are of the legume type, they will support on their roots a certain kind of bacteria which have the unusual power of transforming nitrogen of the air--a vital plant food--into a form usable by plants. As a general rule, these soil bacteria furnish enough air-derived nitrogen for all of the legume plant above the ground while the nitrogen for the roots comes out of the soil itself. Thus, if the leaves and stems, as well as the roots, are plowed under, an appreciable amount of nitrogen actually is added to the soil.

The addition of organic matter to the soil in the form of green manure greatly improves the tilth or workability of the soil. It also greatly increases the soil's capacity to absorb water and thereby reduces erosive run-off.

The extent to which soil-conserving and soil-building crops can increase the erosion-resisting capacity of the soil has been studied at the Bethany, Missouri, soil experiment station. On a moderately steep slope of 8 percent, plots kept continuously in corn lost by immediate run-off an average of more than one-fourth of the annual rainfall; they also lost an average of 67 tons of soil per acre each year. On the same slope, a plot kept continuously in alfalfa lost by run-off an average of less than four percent of the total rainfall per year and only a few hundred pounds of soil per acre. Continuous corn land lost eight times more rain water by immediate run-off and about 320 times more soil than did the alfalfa plot.

When clover was included in a rotation with wheat and corn, the average run-off following a rain was less than one-half that for land kept continuously in corn, and the soil loss per acre was only one-seventh as large.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO SAVE SOIL RESOURCES

Though it is almost impossible to believe, a workable knowledge of soils dates back less than 50 years. A great amount still remains to be learned about them.

In recent years, however, Federal and State governmental and educational agencies have directed conscientious efforts toward soil conservation. Soil survey tests and demonstration farms have shown the need and practicability of sound soil-conserving and soil-improving practices. Individual farms, here and there, have adopted good land-use practices, but farmers in general have continued to practice an exploitive kind of farming.

While farmers had extensive foreign outlets for their surplus wheat, hog products, cotton and tobacco, the large returns from these foreign sales tended to obscure the loss of millions of dollars of soil and soil fertility. It paid, temporarily at least to use the land for all it would produce. When world trade eventually declined in volume and domestic demand weakened after 1929, farmers were so hard pressed by interest, debt, cash rentals, taxes and other expenses that they could not afford to plant grasses and trees or to employ other good land-use practices that do not bring an immediate cash return.

A start in the direction of wise land use was made under the Agricultural Adjustment programs in 1933, 1934, and 1935. Large acreages of certain basic commodities were shifted to soil-conserving and erosion-preventing uses. This shift, however, was only on a more or less temporary basis and was not viewed primarily from the standpoint of soil conservation.

The nation's resources now must be used with a view to the future as well as the present. The United States has seen the end of its frontier. Practically all of our land area suitable for cultivation is now in use. Men can not longer "solve" soil-depletion problems by moving on to newer lands as they once did in the past. Today, it is against the public interest as well as unprofitable for the farmer to delay a definite program of soil conservation.

SOIL CONSERVATION IN 1936

The new soil conservation program now being offered to American farmers is a major step in the direction of conserving our soil resources.

In 1936, and probably in 1937, cash grants will be made by the Federal Government direct to farmers for adopting approved land-use practices. After January 1, 1938, according to the law, Federal grants will be made to states which conduct an approved state program of soil conservation. The states receiving grants will then distribute payments among cooperating farmers.

In order to facilitate the administration of the 1936 program, the United States has been divided into five regions -- the North Central region, the Western region, the Southern region, the East Central region, and the Northeast region -- each of which has its own peculiar soils problems arising largely from the type of soil, the climate, and the nature of the crops produced. A soil-conservation program, varying slightly in organization, conditions for payments and crop classification, will be conducted in each region.

The 1936 program is based on the recommendations made by farmers and representatives of farmers' groups at the four regional conferences held early in March at Chicago, Memphis, Salt Lake City and New York City. The program does not follow all of the recommendations of any one of the conferences, for changes were necessary to bring differences in line with regional and national needs.

Farmers will not sign contracts. They will be asked, however, to furnish their 1935 acreage figures and other necessary figures to the local committeemen. This is necessary in order that an approved soil-conservation goal may be established for each farm. A farmer may then plan his farming operations in proper accordance with the conditions necessary to qualify for a Federal grant.

THE 1936 PROGRAM IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Insofar as administratively practicable, responsibility for administering the program will be in the hands of the farmers themselves and conducted by them through state, county and community committees.

Community committeemen will be elected by all interested farmers in a township or other similarly defined area at the community meetings to be held as soon as possible after the program gets underway in the state. The chairmen of the community committees in a county will comprise a county committee, and will administer the program in the county. All farmers participating in the program in a county will be members of a county association.

The State Committee will be comprised of three or more members, of which a majority will be farmers. This committee will supervise the organization and administration of the program in the state, and will coordinate the general activities of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Washington, D. C., with the operation of the program in the counties.

ESTABLISHMENTS OF BASES

As soon as possible after the community educational and election meeting, community committeemen will visit the farms in the community and help them fill out their work sheets. Among other things, the work sheet for each farm will show (1) the acreage of crops harvested in 1935, and (2) the community committee's recommendations for the soil-depleting crop acreage base.

The soil depleting base will be the total acreage in soil-depleting crops in 1935, modified as the community committee finds necessary to allow for unusual conditions and to establish equity between individual tracts of land. A complete list of the soil-depleting crops produced in the North Central states is given in the section on "Classification of Crops."

On farms included under 1935 crop control programs, the 1935 soil-depleting crop acreage will be adjusted upward by the number of adjusted acres that were devoted in 1935 to soil-conserving and soil-building crops. Adjustments also will be made for unusual variations in plantings in 1935 because of adverse weather or other abnormal conditions.

In counties where cotton and tobacco are grown, a separate base will be established for each of the crops. These bases will be included as a part of the total soil-depleting base for the farm. Bases will also be established for flax and sugar beets. Information on the establishment of so-called "special" crop bases will be furnished to the county committee in counties where special crops are produced commercially.

If necessary individual farm bases also will be adjusted to bring them in line with the aggregate acreage of soil-depleting crops established for the county.

When the base established for each farm in the county has been approved by the state committee, this information will then be made available to the individual farmer. The notice also will indicate the total adjusted cotton, tobacco, flax and sugar beet bases that are established for each farm in case such crops are included in the 1935 cropping history.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT.

Each farmer who wishes to do so may apply for grant or payment. The deadline for this filing will be announced in adequate time from the local committee headquarters.

When the 1935 cropping practice in line with conditions of the program can be determined, performance on the individual farm will be checked, and payment for that performance will be made as soon as possible thereafter.

AWARDS FOR GOOD LAND USE

All farmers who make positive performance in improving and conserving the soil and soil fertility on their land are eligible for these grants. Farmers may qualify for either or both of two types of payments: (1) a soil-conserving payment, for the shifting of acreage from soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving and soil-building crops or to approved soil-building uses, and (2) a soil-building payment, for such farming practices as are recommended by the state committee and approved by the Secretary. Such farming practices might be the establishment of new seedings of soil-building crops, pasture improvement and liming.

By "crop land" is meant all land from which any crop (other than wild hay) was harvested in 1935, together with all other farm land which is tillable and from which at least one crop (other than wild hay) has been harvested since January 1, 1930.

Soil-conserving payments

For farms on which no tobacco, cotton, peanuts, sugar beets or flax are grown, the soil-conserving payment will average approximately \$10 per acre for the region as a whole. The average payment per acre will be more than \$10 in some states and less in others because of variations in the productivity of the crop land. The rate per acre for a county within a state will be scaled according to the productivity of all crop land in that county as compared with the average productivity of all

crop land in the state. The rate per acre for a particular farm will depend upon the relative yield of the principal crop.

The total amount of the soil-conserving payment for a farm will depend on the number of soil-depleting acres shifted. On most farms in this region, however, payment will not be made on acres shifted in excess of 15 percent of the total acres in the soil-depleting base.

For farms on which cotton and tobacco are grown, specific payments will be made for shifting cotton and tobacco acreages to soil-conserving and soil-building crops. This payment will be at the rate of 5 cents per pound of the normal cotton yield established for the farm. Though the maximum shift for which payment will be made is 35 percent of the cotton base acreage for the farm, the shift must not exceed 25 percent of the total of the individual bases for any county.

Payments with respect to tobacco will be at the rate of 3 to 5 cents per pound of the normal yield established for the tobacco acres shifted, depending on the kind of tobacco produced. Payments will not be made for shifts in excess of 30 percent of the tobacco base on any farm.

The rate of the soil-building payment and the conditions governing the making of such payments in each state will be recommended by the state committee and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. The maximum total soil-building payment cannot exceed a sum obtained by multiplying \$1 by the total number of all crop acres devoted to soil-building crops on the farm in 1936. A slight exception will be made for small acreages.

Special provisions are being established governing the determination of bases and the rates and conditions of payment for farms on which sugar beets and flax will be grown in 1936.

Information will be furnished county committees relative to requirements for a grant, amount of payments, and the minimum requirements in connection with the special crops in counties where such crops as tobacco, cotton, sugar beets and flax are produced commercially.

Minimum Performance

No payment will be made on any farm unless the minimum requirements for 1936 plantings of soil-conserving crops are met. The minimum requirement for each farm operator or owner on all land owned, operated, or controlled by him in the county is that he must have a total acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops in 1936 at least equal to either (a) 20 percent of his 1936 soil-depleting acreage base, or (b) the maximum number of acres for which soil-conservation payments can be made on the farm (15 percent of the base on most North Central farms).

Division of Payments

The division of both soil-conserving and soil-building payments between landlords and tenants will be in the same proportion as the principal soil-depleting crop, or the proceeds from this crop, is divided under

the terms of the lease. Therefore, in a case where a man rents for cash, the landlord will not share in any part of the payment.

Upon recommendation of the state committee and approval by the Secretary, a different basis for dividing payments may be used if sugar beets is the major soil-depleting crop on the farm. The principal soil-depleting crop is the one with the largest number of acres on the land for which a work sheet has been filled out. If no soil-depleting crop has a larger acreage than any other, the principal one will be the soil-depleting crop of major importance in the county.

CLASSIFICATION OF CROPS

For the purpose of carrying out the program, all crops, generally speaking, are divided into three classes--soil-depleting, soil-conserving, and soil-building. If handled in certain ways, however, some of the soil-depleting crops may be regarded as soil-conserving or soil-building. For example, soybeans, if harvested for grain or hay, are soil-depleting. But if soybeans are turned under as green manure, the crop becomes a qualified soil-building crop.

The crops classified as soil-depleting for the North Central regions are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Corn (field, sweet,
broom and popcorn) | 5. Sweet potatoes |
| 2. Cotton | 6. Rice |
| 3. Tobacco | 7. Sugar beets |
| 4. Irish potatoes | 8. Hemp |
| | 9. Cultivated sunflowers |
10. Commercial truck and canning crops, melons, and strawberries.
 11. Grain sorghums and sweet sorghums.
 12. Small grains, harvested for grain or hay (wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, flax, emmer, speltz, and grain mixtures).
 13. Annual grasses, harvested for hay or seed (Sudan and millets).
 14. Annual legumes, harvested for grain or hay (soybeans, field beans, cowpeas, and field peas).
 15. All idle crop land in 1936, unless otherwise specified by the state committee and approved by the Secretary.

The crops classed as soil-conserving are:

1. Annual legumes, including vetch, winter peas, bur and crimson clover; biennial legumes, including sweet, red, alsike, and Mammoth clovers; perennial legumes, including alfalfa, kudzu, sericea, and white clover; and annual Lespedeza -- when these legumes are planted with or without nurse crops such as rye, oats, wheat, barley or grain mixtures, when such nurse crops are pastured or clipped green.
2. Perennial grasses, including blue grass, Dallis, timothy redtop, orchard, Bermuda, brome, crested and slender wheat grass, or grass mixtures, when on plowable crop land

and not classified as permanent pasture, and when with or without nurse crops such as rye, oats, wheat, barley or grain mixtures, when such nurse crops are pastured or clipped green.

3. Crop acreage planted to forest trees since January 1, 1934.

The crops classified as soil-building are:

1. Annual legumes, (a) including vetch, winter peas, bur and crimson clover, when turned under as a green manure crop (Acreage seeded to these crops in the fall of 1935 and turned under in 1936), and (b) including soybeans, velvet beans, field beans, field peas and cowpeas, when turned under as a green manure crop.
2. Biennial legumes, including sweet, red, alsike, and Mammoth clovers; perennial legumes, including alfalfa, Lespedeza, sericea, and white clover; and annual varieties of Lespedeza; when seeded in 1936.
3. Forest trees, when planted on crop land in 1936.

There are certain crop classifications which are not to be included in establishing the individual producer's soil-depleting base. These neutral classifications are:

Idle crop land, unless reclassified upon recommendation of the state committee and approved by the Secretary because of unusual weather conditions in 1935; cultivated fallow land, including clean cultivated orchards and vineyards, unless otherwise classified on account of special conditions; vineyards, tree fruits, small fruits, or nut trees (if interplanted, however, such acreage shall carry the classification and actual acreage of the intercrop grown); woodland, other than that planted at owner's expense since 1933; and wasteland, roads, lanes, lots, yards, etc.

Approved soil-building practices.

The soil-building practices that will be approved for soil-building payments have not been finally determined. They are to be recommended by the state committee in each state and approved by the Secretary. They could include such practices as new seedings, liming, improving permanent pastures, etc.

APPLICATION OF PROGRAM

- A. On Farms Where Soil-depleting Base Does Not Include Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Beets or Flax.

(In order to simplify explanation, the average soil-conserving payment and the average soil-building payment of \$10 and \$1, respectively, are used in the following paragraphs.)

As already stated, farmers who take part in the soil conservation program may qualify for one or both of two payments.

The larger of the two payments--the soil-conserving payment--will, in general, be made for devoting to soil-conserving or soil-building crops, or uses, crop land previously in soil-depleting crops.

There are three limitations on the soil-conserving payment. First, the total acreage of both old and new seedings of soil-conserving and soil-building crops on the farm in 1936 must be equivalent to at least 15 percent of the soil-depleting base acreage before the farmer will become entitled to payment. Second, the farmer will receive the soil-conserving payment of \$10 per acre, more or less, only on the increase in soil-conserving and soil-building acreage up to 15 percent of his soil-depleting base. Third, the soil-conserving payment will not be made with respect to new seedings of soil-conserving and soil-building crops on land which, as in the case of clover seeded in oats for harvest, is not devoted substantially to soil-conserving or soil-building uses in 1936.

If Farmer A had a soil-depleting base of 95 acres out of a total crop area of 100 acres, he would not receive a soil-conserving payment in 1936 unless he increased his total soil-building and soil-conserving acreage at least up to 14 1/4 acres, that is, 15 percent of 95 acres. In this case he would get paid on 9 1/4 acres which represent the area by which the soil-depleting acreage has been decreased below the base level. If he wanted to do so, Farmer A could further increase this acreage on up to 19 1/4 acres and receive the maximum soil-conserving payment, in accordance with the second limitation just pointed out.

A farmer also may qualify for a soil-building payment if he adopts in 1936 such farming practices as the state committee recommends and the Secretary approves.

Assume that in 1936, Farmer B, with a soil-depleting base of 90 acres, has 40 acres of corn, 10 acres of new alfalfa seeded on former corn ground, 40 acres of oats for harvest with clover seeded in, and 20 acres of second-year clover carried over from 1935.

The community committee checking this cropping record in the latter part of 1936 would first determine if Farmer B, had kept his soil-depleting acreage at least down to his base level. According to the foregoing figures it would be found that his soil-depleting acreage actually had been decreased by 10 acres. Farmer B thus would be entitled to the soil-conserving payment of \$10 per acre, more or less, making a total of \$100.

Let us assume that the state committee recommends and the Secretary approves new seedings of clover and alfalfa for soil-building payments at the rate of \$2 for each acre of such seedings. Farmer B has a total of 50 of these new seedings, that is, the 10 acres of alfalfa and the 40 acres of clover seeded in with oats, which at the rate of \$2 per acre would amount to \$100. But the total soil-building grant for which he is eligible is \$30, an amount obtained by multiplying his total soil-conserving and soil-building base of 20 acres of second-year clover and 10 acres of new alfalfa times the limiting sum of \$1 per acre.

Thus, the total grant to Farmer B, including the soil-conserving payment, would be \$130.

It should be noted from a study of the crop classification lists that soybeans, velvet beans, field beans, field peas and cowpeas, if they are turned under as a green manure, qualify a producer for a soil-conserving payment, providing various other conditions have been met. Used in other ways than as a green manure, the foregoing crops are classed as soil-depleting.

On a farm where the soil-depleting base is 80 acres a farmer might decrease this base by 12 acres and put in, say, five acres of new alfalfa seeded alone, seven acres of soybeans to be turned under as a green manure in addition to 20 acres of red clover seeded in with oats for harvest. This farmer would be eligible to receive both the soil-conserving payment and the soil-building payment if in his state new seedings are approved as a soil-building practice. Payment would be made on the full total of 12 acres here, since this area does not exceed 15 percent of the soil-depleting base and at the same time comes up to the requirement that in 1936 the total area in soil-conserving and soil-depleting crops also must be at least 15 percent of the soil-depleting base. If new seedings of legumes were paid for at, say, the rate of \$2 per acre, the farmer would receive his maximum soil-building payment, which in this case amounts to \$12. He also receives a soil-conserving payment of \$120.

B. On Farms Where Soil-Depleting Base Includes TOBACCO,
but not Cotton, Peanuts, Sugar Beets or Flax.

On farms where tobacco is produced along with the regular soil-depleting crops, the local committee will determine separately a tobacco acreage base and a soil-depleting base for other crops exclusive of tobacco.

The farmer will receive a soil-conserving payment for each acre of crops devoted to soil-conserving or soil-building purposes in 1936, which represents a decrease in the 1936 tobacco acreage below the base level for tobacco. This payment will range from 3 cents to 5 cents per pound of the normal yield per acre of tobacco for the farm, depending upon the type of tobacco involved.

Payments also will be made for any shift from other soil-depleting crops or practices to soil-conserving or soil-building crops.

The maximum tobacco acreage upon which this special soil-conserving payment applies for devoting such land to soil-building and soil-conserving crops in 1936 is 30 percent of the base level. This maximum with respect to the soil-depleting crop acreage of other crops is 15 percent of their soil-depleting base, just as on farms where tobacco is not grown.

The soil-building payment on farms on which tobacco is grown may be made on the same crops or practices that qualify on farms not producing tobacco. The maximum payment will be subject to the same limitations, that is, limited by the acreage devoted to old or new seedings of soil-conserving and soil-building crops in 1936.

If a farmer increases his 1936 tobacco acreage above his base while at the same time shifting his acreage devoted to other soil-depleting crops, a deduction will be made from the total payments otherwise due him, for each excess acre of tobacco, at the same rate as his payment would have been if he had planted some of his tobacco base to soil-conserving or soil-depleting crops. Likewise, if he increases his other crop acreage above its base while shifting his acreage devoted to tobacco he will be penalized \$10 per acre, more or less, for each excess acre.

C. On Farms Where Soil-Depleting Base Includes COTTON, But not Tobacco, Sugar Beets or Flax.

On farms where cotton is produced along with the regular soil-depleting crops, the local committee will determine separate bases in the same general manner as for farms producing tobacco.

The special soil-conserving payment per acre to be made with respect to changes from the base cotton acreage, will be 5 cents for each pound of the normal yield per acre of cotton for the farm.

The maximum cotton acreage devoted to soil-building and soil-conserving uses in 1936 and upon which the special soil-conserving payment can be made is 35 percent of the base level for the individual farm, provided the total of changes for the county does not exceed 25 percent of the aggregate of all individual cotton bases.

The amount of the soil-building payment on farms producing cotton and the deductions, if any, will be determined in the same manner as on farms producing tobacco.

THE PROGRAM AIDS FARMERS

The 1936 Soil Conservation Program enables the individual farmer to maintain or improve the fertility and productiveness of his soil which he has long desired but could not afford to do because of the necessity of making both ends meet.

The program allows him much leeway in his farming practices. There is no contract with specific requirements. Only certain minimum and maximum conditions are set forth. The farmer is free to plan his farming operations in line with these conditions, if he so desires, and receive direct grants in accordance with the degree of his individual performance.

Thorough research to provide a basis for a program in 1937 will be undertaken during the remainder of the year. Efforts will be made to bring together the results of experimental and demonstrational work now being done by the Soil Conservation Service, land grant college experiment stations, and in regional adjustment and county planning projects.

In its entirety, the new farm program will improve soil wealth, assure an adequate food supply for present and future generations, and will provide the nation with a more balanced agriculture.

"The new program represents a sincere effort both to conserve the soil in the interests of producers and consumers and to preserve the economic gains that farmers have made during the past three years."

-----Secretary of Agriculture H. A. Wallace

